

CEHNC-OE-CX (200-1c)

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Basic Safety Concepts and Considerations for Ordnance and Explosives (OE) Operations, OE Center of Expertise (CX)  
Interim Guidance Document 00-03

1. PURPOSE: To specify how OE operations will be performed on project sites.

2. APPLICABILITY: This guidance is applicable to all U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commands having responsibility for performing OE response activities.

3. REFERENCES: Refer to Appendix A of the enclosure.

4. REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES: Refer to the enclosed document, Basic Safety Concepts and Considerations for Ordnance and Explosives Operations. This document should be used by USACE personnel at OE sites and should be incorporated into contract work statements for OE activities. This document supersedes Interim Guidance Document 00-02, Basic Safety Concepts and Considerations for Ordnance and Explosives (OE) Operations, dated 7 March 2000. We are issuing a revised document to make both minor and significant changes to the 7 March 2000 version. Significant changes include:

a. Paragraphs 1-7.f.(4) and 6-1.b: Clarification is provided for the use of earth-moving machinery to remove overburden from suspected OE.

b. Paragraph 1-8.b: Clarification is provided concerning the supervision of activities performed by non-UXO personnel.

c. Paragraph 2-1.c: Additional detail is provided for procedures to be followed when suspect chemical warfare materiel (CWM) is encountered at a conventional OE site.

d. Paragraph 6-1.a: The term "UXO personnel" is replaced by "UXO qualified personnel" in reference to hand excavation of suspect OE.

e. Paragraph 7-1: The sentence previously reading "Open burning of explosives, propellants, incendiary materials, and pyrotechnics is unauthorized" is deleted.

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5. EFFECTIVE DATES: The requirements and procedures set forth in this interim guidance are effective immediately. They will remain in effect indefinitely, unless superseded by other policy or regulation.

6. POINTS OF CONTACT: If you need additional information, please contact Mr. Gregory Bayuga at 256-895-1596.

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***BASIC SAFETY CONCEPTS AND  
CONSIDERATIONS FOR  
ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES  
OPERATIONS***

U.S. ARMY ENGINEERING AND SUPPORT  
CENTER, HUNTSVILLE

22 May 2000

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# **BASIC SAFETY CONCEPTS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES (OE) OPERATIONS**

## **CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION**

1-1. Purpose. This pamphlet establishes the safe operating procedures for dealing with ordnance and explosives (OE) and unexploded ordnance (UXO) items on formerly used defense sites (FUDS), base realignment and closure (BRAC) and installation restoration (IR) projects. Because there are no absolute safe procedures for dealing with OE, merely procedures considered being least dangerous, it is essential that a planned and systematic approach be established.

1-2. Applicability. This pamphlet applies to all Headquarters, United States Army Corps of Engineers (HQUSACE) elements, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) commands, and their contractors having the responsibility for performing OE response activities. For the purpose of this document, all references to OE include UXO.

1-3. References. Required and related publications are listed in appendix A.

1-4. Distribution. Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

1-5. Policy. It is the policy of the USACE to produce products and services that fully meet the customers' expectations of quality, timeliness and cost effectiveness. All OE response procedures must be formulated to ensure harmony with the USACE Strategic Vision and should be in concert with activities presented in other USACE guidance. There should be no compromise of health and safety requirements to meet production or quality goals. Safety is the leading edge of quality.

1-6. Responsibilities. It is the responsibility of all USACE and contractor personnel involved with OE response projects to safely execute them in accordance with (IAW) the approved Site Safety and Health Plan (SSHP), Work Plan (WP), and all applicable laws, regulations, and policies.

1-7. Terms and Definitions.

a. Ordnance and Explosives. Ammunition, ammunition components, chemical or biological warfare materiel, or explosives that have been abandoned, expelled from demolition pits or burning pads, lost, discarded, buried or fired. Such ammunition components and explosives are no longer under accountable record control of any DOD organization or activity.



b. Explosive Soil. Explosive soil refers to a mixture of explosives in soil, sand, clay or other solid media at concentrations such that the mixture itself is explosive.

c. Unexploded Ordnance (UXO). Military Munitions that have been primed, fuzed, armed, or otherwise prepared for action, and have been fired, dropped, launched, projected, or placed in such a manner as to constitute a hazard to the operations, installations, personnel, or material, and remain unexploded either by malfunction, design, or any other cause.

d. UXO Qualified Personnel. The term UXO Qualified Personnel applies only to personnel meeting the requirements for the positions of UXO Technician II, UXO Technician III, UXO Safety Officer, UXO Quality Control Specialist, and the Senior UXO Supervisor. For qualification requirements, refer to EP 1110-1-18, Ordnance and Explosives Response.

e. OE Procedures. These procedures include, but are not limited to, the following actions performed by a UXO qualified individual.

(1) Gaining access to (manual excavation) and identifying subsurface anomalies and assessing the condition of buried OE.

(2) Identifying and assessing the condition of surface OE.

(3) Recovery and final disposal of all OE.

f. OE Related procedures: These OE related procedures include, but are not limited to, the following and can be performed by a non-UXO qualified individual:

(1) Location and marking of subsurface anomalies.

(2) Location and marking of suspected surface OE.

(3) Transportation and storage of recovered OE.

(4) Utilizing earth-moving machinery (EMM) to excavate overburden from suspected OE.

#### 1-8. General Safety Concerns and Procedures.

a. OE operations will not be conducted until a complete plan for the site is prepared and approved. These plans will be based upon limiting exposure to the minimum number of personnel, for the minimum time, to the least amount of OE consistent with safe and efficient operations.

b. Only UXO qualified personnel will perform OE procedures. Non-UXO personnel may be utilized to perform OE related procedures when supervised by a UXO Technician III. All personnel engaged in field operations will be thoroughly trained and capable of recognizing the specific hazards of the procedures being performed. To ensure that these procedures are performed to standards, all field personnel will be under the direct supervision of a UXO Technician III.

c. Personnel who will be handling OE items will not wear outer or inner garments having static electricity generating characteristics. Materials made of 100 percent polyester, nylon, silk and wool, are highly static producing. Refer to DA Pam 385-64 for more information regarding non-static producing clothing.

d. Prior to any action being performed on an ordnance item, all fuzing will be positively identified. This identification will consist of fuze type by function, condition (armed or unarmed), and the physical state/condition of the fuze, i.e., burned, broken, parts exposed/sheared, etc.

## CHAPTER 2 OE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

### 2-1. OE Safety Precautions.

a. Every effort will be made to identify a suspect OE item. Under no circumstances will any OE be moved in an attempt to make a positive identification. The OE item will be visually examined for markings and other external features such as shape, size, and external fittings. If an unknown OE item is encountered, the on-site USACE representative will be notified immediately. If there is no USACE personnel on-site, the District or Design Center's OE Safety representative will be notified as soon as possible. If external research is required, it will be initiated by the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville. The following are additional considerations for the safe handling of OE items:

- (1) Projectiles containing Base Detonating (BD) fuzes are to be considered armed if the round is fired.
- (2) Arming wires and pop-out pins on unarmed fuzes should be secured prior to any movement.
- (3) Do not depress plungers, turn vanes, rotate spindles, levers, setting rings or other external fittings on OE items. Such actions may arm or activate the OE.
- (4) Do not attempt to remove any fuze(s) from the OE. Do not dismantle or strip components from any OE items.
- (5) UXO Personnel are not authorized to inert any OE items found on-site.
- (6) OE /UXO items will not be taken from the site as souvenirs/training aids.
- (7) Civil War ordnance will be treated as any other OE.

b. Prior to entering areas/ranges contaminated with Improved Conventional Munitions (ICM) an approved DA -waiver must be obtained. The District and/or Design Center's OE Safety representative must be notified.

c. Any time -suspect chemical warfare materiel (CWM) is encountered during conventional OE site activities, all work will immediately cease. Project personnel will withdraw along cleared paths upwind from the discovery. A team consisting of a minimum of two personnel will secure the area to prevent unauthorized access. Personnel should position themselves as far upwind as possible while still maintaining security of the area.

(1) On Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS), the UXO team will notify the local Point of Contact (POC) designated in the Work Plan. The local POC will facilitate Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) response and two personnel will secure the site until EOD's arrival. If the local POC designated in the Work Plan is not the local law enforcement agency, the local POC will inform the local law enforcement agency of the discovery. The EOD unit will notify the Technical Escort Unit (TEU) and secure the area until TEU's arrival. After notifying the local law enforcement agencies, the local POC will notify the USAESCH Safety Office to inform them of the actions taken.

(2) On active installations, the UXO team will normally notify the Range Control Officer, Facility Engineer, Post Headquarters, or POC designated in the Work Plan.

d. Avoid inhalation and skin contact with smoke, fumes, and vapors of explosives and other related hazardous materials.

e. Consider OE items, which may have been exposed to fire and detonation, as extremely hazardous. Chemical and physical changes may have occurred to the contents, which might render it more sensitive than its original state.

f. Do not rely on the color coding of OE for positive identification. Munitions having incomplete or improper color codes have been encountered.

g. Avoid approaching the forward area of an OE item until it can be determined whether or not the item contains a shaped charge. The explosive jet, which is formed during detonation, can be lethal at great distances. Assume that all shaped charge munitions contain a piezoelectric (PZ) fuzing system until identified. PZ fuzing is extremely sensitive. They can function at the slightest physical change and can remain hazardous for an indefinite period of time.

h. Approach an unfired rocket motor from the side at a 45-degree angle. Accidental ignition can cause a missile hazard and hot exhaust.

i. Do not expose unfired rocket motors to any Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR) sources.

j. Consider an emplaced landmine armed until proven otherwise. It may be intentionally booby-trapped to deceive.

(1) Many training mines contain spotting charges capable of inflicting serious injury.

(2) Exercise extreme care with wooden mines that have been buried for long periods of time. Certain soil conditions can cause the wood to deteriorate and any inadvertent movement or pressure may initiate the fuze.

k. Assume that practice OE contains a live charge until it can be determined otherwise. Expended pyrotechnic and practice devices can contain red or white phosphorus residue. Due to incomplete combustion, the phosphorous residue may re-ignite spontaneously if the crust is broken and exposed to air.

l. Do not approach a smoking white phosphorous (WP) munition. Burning WP may detonate the explosive burster charge at anytime.

m. Foreign ordnance was returned to the United States for exploitation and subsequent disposal. Every effort will be made to research the applicable documentation and publications prior to commencement of a project.

n. Anomaly Avoidance Operations. Anomaly Avoidance procedures are detailed in

- ETL 385-1-2, (Draft) Generic Scope of Work for Ordnance Avoidance Operations, August 1996, and
- Ordnance and Explosives (OE) Center of Expertise (CX) Interim Guidance Document 99-01, Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Support for Other Activities, 5 February 1999.

These documents can be located on the OE Home Page at:

<http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil/oew/policy/regpro.html>.

## CHAPTER 3 OE STORAGE

3-1. OE Storage. During OE projects, explosive storage falls into two categories, on-DOD installations and off-DOD installations.

a. On-DOD installations the provisions of DOD 6055.9 STD will be followed. Generally, the installation should have an explosive storage area that meets DOD standards. The permitting and compliance requirements are the responsibility of the installation. The compatibility of explosives found in Chapter 3, DOD 6055.9 STD will be followed. OE items awaiting final disposition will not be stored with other explosives. Storage of commercial explosives requires DOD hazard class storage compatibility group.

b. In the event the installation does not have an existing storage facility, the provisions of paragraph c, in this section, will apply.

c. Off-DOD installations, the contractor will be responsible for the construction of a temporary explosive storage area. This temporary storage area will meet all local, state, and 27 CFR, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) requirements and as much of DOD 6055.9 STD as is practical to implement. The establishment of a temporary explosive storage area must meet the following requirements.

(1) The area will, if possible, meet the inhabited building and public traffic route distances specified in DOD 6055.9 STD. If the distances are less than required by the DOD guidance, a proposed barricading plan to protect the public from accidental detonation must be submitted and approved by the Huntsville Center's Engineering Directorate.

(2) Magazines must meet the requirements of the BATF regulations, and each magazine must have a Net Explosive Weight (NEW) established for the explosives to be stored.

(3) Each magazine must be grounded as specified in NFPA 780 and must meet the intermagazine distances as defined in the DOD guidance.

(4) A physical security survey will be conducted to determine if fencing or guards are required. This survey will be coordinated through local law enforcement agencies. Generally, a fence around the magazine is not needed IAW BATF regulations. However, it is the responsibility of the contractor for determining the degree of protection to prevent the theft of explosives and OE items.

(5) A fire plan for either on or off-installation explosive storage areas will be prepared and coordinated with the local fire department. All magazines will have placards IAW 27 CFR/ATF P 5400.7 or DOD 6055.9 STD.

## CHAPTER 4 OE TRANSPORTATION

4-1. OE Transportation. In the event that OE items must be transported off-site, the provisions of 49 CFR, DA Pam 385-64 state and local laws will be followed. These additional considerations are provided for the safe transportation of OE items:

- a. USACE contractors are prohibited from transporting OE off-site for destruction until the provisions of paragraph 1-9, TB 700-2 are followed.
- b. Do not transport WP munitions unless they are immersed in water, mud or wet sand.
- c. If loose pyrotechnic, tracer, flare or similar mixtures are to be transported, they will be placed in #10 mineral oil or equivalent to minimize the fire and explosion hazards.
- d. Incendiary loaded munitions should be placed on a bed of sand and covered with sand to help control the burn if a fire should start.
- e. If an unfired rocket motor must be transported, it will be positioned in the vehicle parallel to the rear axle. This will afford maximum protection for the personnel operating the vehicle.
- f. If a base-ejection projectile must be transported to a disposal area, the base will be oriented in the vehicle so that it is parallel to the rear axle. This will afford maximum protection for the personnel operating the vehicle.
- g. OE with exposed hazardous fillers such as High Explosive (HE), will be placed in appropriate containers with packing material to prevent migration of the hazardous fillers. Padding should be added to protect the exposed filler from heat, shock and friction.

## CHAPTER 5 EXCLUSION ZONE OPERATIONS

5-1. Exclusion Zone Operations. On OE project sites, it is the responsibility of the contractor's UXO Safety Officer (UXOSO) to establish the exclusion zone for each UXO team. This exclusion zone should not be confused with the safe separation distance, which is maintained between teams.

a. The purpose of the exclusion zone is for the protection of non-essential project personnel and the public from blast overpressure and fragmentation hazards. There are two criteria for calculating exclusion zones;

(1) Intentional Detonations. When destroying ordnance, both the hazards from fragmentation and overpressure must be considered. The minimum separation distances in DOD 6055.9 STD will be used unless otherwise stated. The maximum fragmentation and overpressure distances may also be calculated IAW HNC-ED-CS-S-98-1, Methods for Predicting Primary Fragmentation Characteristics of Cased Munitions.

(2) Unintentional Detonations. If the identification of OE on an OE site is unknown, the minimum separation distance specified in DOD 6055.9 STD, Chapter 5, Paragraph C5.5.4, will be used to establish the exclusion zones. When the identification of OE items are known, the exclusion zones will be determined by the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, (USAESCH) Engineering Directorate using HNC-ED-CS-S-98-1.

b. When multiple teams are working on site, a safe separation distance will be established. The minimum distance maintained between teams will never be less than 200 feet or the K50 overpressure distance. The one that is greater will be used.

c. While OE operations are being conducted, only personnel essential for the operation will be allowed in the exclusion zone. When non-essential personnel enter the exclusion zone, all OE operations will cease. In addition to this work stoppage, the following actions will be accomplished:

(1) The individual(s) must receive a safety briefing and sign the visitor's log prior to entering the zone.

(2) The individual(s) will be escorted by a UXO qualified individual.

(3) All OE operations will cease within the radius of the exclusion zone for the areas to be visited.



d. All personnel working within the exclusion zone will comply with the following:

(1) There will be no smoking within the exclusion zone, except in areas designated by the UXOSO.

(2) There will be no open fires for heating or cooking (gas stoves, grills, etc.) within the exclusion zone, except where authorized by the UXOSO.

(3) During magnetometer operations, workers will have no metal parts in or on their shoes that would cause the magnetometer to present false indications.

## CHAPTER 6 OE EXCAVATION OPERATIONS

### 6-1. OE Excavation Operations.

a. Hand excavation is the most reliable method for uncovering OE provided the item is near the surface. Hand excavation exposes personnel to the hazard of detonation for longer periods of time than any other method. Taking this into consideration, only UXO qualified personnel will be used to accomplish this task.

b. Earth-Moving Machinery (EMM) may be used to excavate overburden from suspected OE. EMM will not be used to excavate within 12 inches of a suspected OE. Once the EMM is within 12 inches of the OE, the excavation will be completed by hand excavation methods. Personnel who are not UXO qualified may operate EMM only when supervised by a UXO Technician III.

(1) If more than one EMM is to be used on site, the same minimum separation distances required for multiple work teams applies.

(2) EMM operations will be conducted within the guidelines of EM 385-1-1 and 29 CFR 1926 Subpart P.

c. Excavation operations, whether by hand or EMM, will employ a step down or offset access method. Under no circumstances will any excavation be made directly over the suspected OE.

## CHAPTER 7 OE DISPOSAL OPERATIONS

7-1. OE Disposal Operations. All demolition operations will be conducted IAW TM 60A 1-1-31 and the USAESCH Procedures for Demolition of Multiple Rounds on OE Sites. No other publications are to be used for these operations.

a. As a general rule, all demolition operations will be accomplished by electrical means to assure maximum safety. There are exceptions to this requirement in situations where static electricity or Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR) hazards are present. Unintentional detonations can occur because of these induced currents (or lightning). The following precautions from TM 9-1375-213-12 are to be followed.

(1) Premature detonation of electric blasting caps by induced current from radio frequency (RF) signals is possible. Refer to TM 9-1375-213-12 that shows the minimum safe distance in respect to transmitter power and indicates distance beyond which it is safe to conduct electric blasting even under the most adverse conditions.

(2) Lightning is a hazard to both electric and non-electric blasting caps. A strike or a nearby miss is almost certain to initiate either type of cap or other sensitive explosive elements such as caps in delay detonators. Lightning strikes, even at distant locations, may cause extremely high local earth currents that may initiate electrical firing circuits. Effects of remote lightning strikes are multiplied by proximity to conducting elements, such as those found in buildings, fences, railroads, bridges, streams, and underground cables or conduits. The only safe procedure is to suspend all blasting activities during electrical storms and when one is impending.

(3) Electric power lines also pose a hazard for electric initiating systems. It is recommended that any demolition operation closer than 155 meters to electric power lines be done with a non-electric system such as NON-EL. This non-electric firing system provides the same amount of safety and control as electrical firing systems, but without the interference of EMR and static electricity hazards.

(4) Provisions of paragraph 1-9, TB 700-2 will be fully complied with prior to USACE contractors transporting OE off-site for destruction.

a. Only serviceable condition explosive material will be used for disposal operations.

b. The only acceptable disposal method is the one stated in the appropriate TM60 Series manual for specific ordnance types. Any commercial explosives being used will be equivalent to the military explosive required for the disposal operation.

### **NOTE**

***Oil well perforators/conventional shape charges are not acceptable substitutes for bulk explosives and will not be used for disposal operations except where applicable, refer to TM 60A-2-1-51. Otherwise these items are to be used only for the venting OE items prior to their turn-in as scrap.***

c. If a situation dictates, protective measures to reduce shock, blast overpressure, and fragmentation will be taken. The USAESCH Engineering Directorate will assist in any design work and will review and approve all proposed protective works. As a minimum requirement all demolition shots will be tamped with clean earth or sand. IAW DOD 6055.9 STD the following separation distances will be observed unless otherwise directed by the Engineering Directorate.

(1) Minimum separation distance for non-fragmenting explosive materials will be no less than 1250 feet.

(2) Minimum separation distance for fragmenting explosive ordnance will be no less than 2500 feet. For bombs and projectiles with a diameter of 5 inches or greater, use a minimum distance of 4000 feet.

(3) Ordnance items with lifting lugs, strong backs, base plates, etc., will be oriented away from personnel, as fragments from these items tends to travel farther than normal.

d. Once demolition operations are completed, a thorough search of the demolition area will be conducted with a magnetometer to ensure a complete disposal was accomplished.

g. Inert ordnance will not be disposed of for scrap until the internal fillers/voids have been exposed and unconfined. Heat generated during the reclamation process can cause the inert fillers, moisture or air to expand and burst the sealed casings. In this situation, Oil Well Perforators can be used for venting these ordnance items which require demilitarization.

## Appendix A

27 CFR 55	Alcohol, Tobacco Products and Firearms
29 CFR 1910	Occupational Safety and Health Standards
29 CFR 1926	Safety and Health Regulations for Construction
49 CFR 100-199	Hazardous Materials Transportation
DOD 6055.9 STD	DOD Ammunition and Explosives Safety Standards, August 1997
AR 190- 11	Physical Security
DA PAM 385-64	Ammunition and Explosives Safety Standards
TM 9-1375-213-12	Operators and Organizational Maintenance Manual; Demolition Materials
TM 60A 1-1-22	EOD Procedures /General EOD Safety Procedures, April 1991
TM 60A 1-1-31	EOD Procedures/General Information on EOD Disposal Procedures, May 1994
EM 385-1-1	USACE Safety and Health Requirements Manual, September 1996
USAESCH	Procedures for Demolition of Multiple Rounds (consolidated shots) on Ordnance and Explosive Sites, August 1998
ER 1110-1-8153	Ordnance and Explosives Response, 19 May 1999
EP 1110-1-18	Ordnance and Explosives Response, 24 April 2000
ATF P 5400.7	ATF Explosives Laws and Regulations, June 1990
HNC-ED-CS-S 98-1	Methods for Predicting Primary Fragmentation Characteristics of Cased Explosives, January 1998
HNC-ED-CS-S 98-2	Methods for Calculating Range to No More Than One Hazardous Fragment Per 600 Square Feet on OE Sites, January 1998
HNC-ED-CS-S 96-8	Guide Selection and Siting of Barricades for Selected OE, September 1997